CLAIM LISTING:

The claims currently pending read as follows:

1. (Original) A method of booting at least one target device in communication with a network, comprising:

requesting at least one boot file from a loading device in communication with the target device;

executing, at the target device, a boot delay response so that the target device does not time out; and

receiving, at the target device, the boot file after the boot delay response is received.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the boot file is selected from the group consisting of:

a bootstrap program, a configuration file, a boot parameters file, and an operating system file.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

evaluating whether a boot delay response should be used based on a state of network congestion.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

executing the boot delay response repeatedly.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the loading device is a server in communication with the target device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the loading device is a client device with a loading program in communication with the target device.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one target device is a plurality of target devices.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        delaying at least one request for the boot file from the target device as the boot delay response.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        delaying at least one response from the loading device as the boot delay response, the response comprising the at least one boot file.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        altering boot parameters on the target device based on the boot delay response.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        altering boot parameters on the loading device based on the boot delay response.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
        rebooting the target device after a timeout value has expired as the boot delay response.

13. (Original) Computer program product in a computer usable medium for providing at least one boot file to at least one target device, comprising:

means for requesting the at least one boot file from a loading device in communication with the target device;

means for executing, at the target device, a boot delay response so that the target device does not time out; and

means for receiving, at the target device, the at least one boot file after the boot delay response is received.

14. (Original) The program of claim 13 further comprising:

means for evaluating whether a boot delay response should be used, based on a state of network congestion.

15. (Original) The program of claim 13 further comprising:

means for executing the boot delay response repeatedly.

16. (Original) The program of claim 13 further comprising:

means for delaying at least one request for the boot file from the target device as the boot delay response.

17. (Original) The program of claim 13 further comprising:

means for delaying at least one response from the loading device as the boot delay response, the response comprising the at least one boot file.

18. (Original) The program of claim 13 further comprising:

means for altering boot parameters on the target device based on the boot delay response.

19.   (Original) The program of claim 13 further comprising:

means for altering boot parameters on the loading device based on the boot delay response.

20.   (Original) The program of claim 13 further comprising:

means for rebooting the target device after a timeout value has expired as the boot delay response.

21.   (Original) A data processing system, comprising:

means for requesting at least one boot file from a loading device in communication with the target device;

means for executing, at the target device, a boot delay response so that the target device does not time out; and

means for receiving, at the target device, the boot file after the boot delay response is received.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for evaluating whether a boot delay response should be used based on a state of network congestion.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for executing the boot delay response repeatedly.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for delaying at least one request for the boot file from the target device as the boot delay response.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for delaying at least one response from the loading device as the boot
delay response, the response comprising at least one boot file.

26.   (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for altering boot parameters on the target device based on the boot
delay response.

27.   (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for altering boot parameters on the loading device based on the boot
delay response.

28.   (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:

means for rebooting the target device after a timeout value has expired as the
boot delay response.

29.   (Previously Presented) A method of booting at least one target device in
communication with a network, comprising:

requesting at least one boot file from a loading device in communication with
the target device;

receiving one or more responses indicating which components are available to
process a boot image negotiation layer;

sending a boot image negotiation layer request to an available component;

receiving an indication of a network delay;

executing, at the target device, a boot delay response so that the target device
does not time out; and

receiving, at the target device, the boot file after the boot delay response is
received.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the length of the delay is based on total network congestion, congestion between the target device and the component, whether the delay is due to the target device or the server , whether the server or target should control the delay, and a combination of the above.